

a blank ; and it is only when we reach the age of Stephen Nemanja that we are able to see clearly. Still even in this portion he imparts incidentally much curious information—such as the survival of the clan system in Montenegro down to 1851, the abolition under modern individualistic conditions of the *zadruga* system, the antiquity of the Hoti tribe, at present so conspicuous, and of the Albanian village of Tuzi, the disappearance since the murder of the late King Alexander of the oldest literary specimen of church Slavonic, presented to that ill-fated monarch when he visited Mount Athos. The account of the founder of the famous dynasty of medieval Serbia contains much that the older histories lacked : Stephen Nemanja's father is now shown to be Zavida, the Greek inscription on his gold seal is quoted, and the date of his death is stated to have been 1199, one of several chronological innovations in the present work.

The last division of the volume embraces the reigns of Nemanja's descendants. Here the author is able to correct from Chomatianos Hopf's and his own previous identification of Chryses with Stréz of Prosék ; but he still keeps the wrong date for the Epirote conquest of Salonika. We miss any reference to Professor Gelcich's paper on Giovanni Dandolo (p. 306, n. 2), and any allusion to Queen Elena's inscription in the most interesting church at Schirgi on the Bojana.¹ He confirms the opinion that 'Ρῶσος Οὐρος of Akropolites was not Stephen Uroš I, but the 'Russian prince' ('Uroš' being the Hungarian *ur*, 'prince'), Rostislav, and refutes the modern view² that the Skutarine coins of 'King Constantine' refer to Constantine Balša, instead of to the much earlier Constantine, son and successor of Stephen Uroš II. He obviously inclines to the opinion that Dušan was a parricide ; indeed, the great Servian Tsar is not unduly exalted in these pages : the Servian empire was made too fast and of too incoherent materials to last, but Dušan had the foresight to warn western Europe of the Turkish peril. For his legal reforms and the internal administration of the Nemanja dynasty we must wait till the second volume appears, and the present closes with the peaceful death of Stephen Uroš V, more than two months after that of his legendary murderer, Vukašin.

WILLIAM MILLER.

Irish Ecclesiastical Architecture, with some notice of similar or related work in England, Scotland, and elsewhere. By ARTHUR C. CHAMPNEYS, M.A. (London : Bell, 1910.)

THIS book by Mr. Champneys represents a decided advance on any previous treatment of the monuments of the building art in Ireland. He preserves the balance between an exclusively Irish treatment of the theme and one that would minimize the native elements in Irish work and merge it in that of western Europe as a whole. Though the word 'Architecture' is used in the title, the volume takes account of monuments, such as the carved crosses and even the recumbent tombstones, which are not in the ordinary sense structures, and on the other hand the limitation 'ecclesiastical' is not so strictly adhered to as to exclude a preliminary

¹ *Wissenschaftliche Mitteilungen aus Bosnien und der Hercegovina*, vii. 231-42.

² Gelcich, *La Zedda e la Dinastia dei Balšidi*, 179, n. 3.

notice of 'specimens of the most primitive secular or pagan architecture of Ireland', which exhibit a style of building from which 'the most primitive ecclesiastical buildings' take their origin.

The main purpose of the volume is to survey the successive periods of Irish ecclesiastical architecture, from the epoch of the primitive structures just mentioned, down to the close of the Gothic period, which is represented in the island by late specimens of the sixteenth and even of the seventeenth century. The treatment throughout is based not only on personal observation, but on documentary evidence interpreted in an historical spirit, and in this connexion the author pays particular attention to the relations of Ireland at different epochs with the adjacent parts of Great Britain and of the Continent. Some of these are prehistoric. In the article 'Archaeology' in the new *Encyclopaedia Britannica*, Dr. C. H. Read emphasizes the European importance of Ireland in the Early Bronze Age, when she supplied her neighbours with her native gold, and apparently possessed a direct sea connexion with the Spanish peninsula. The derivation of the spiral ornament, and even the constructive forms, of the sepulchral chamber at Newgrange by the Boyne from the old Aegean culture, revealed by the discoveries of Schliemann and Sir Arthur Evans, is a current doctrine among the leading authorities of to-day. Mr. Champneys, accepting this, notes too the similar European connexions of the Irish stone forts, which are only the best preserved examples of structures that occur over the greater portion of north-western Europe, while the characteristic 'bee-hive' style of dry-stone building, represented chiefly now in the west of Ireland, occurs also in the less well-preserved Celtic structures of Scotland. At a later period Ireland felt the general European movement of the eleventh and twelfth centuries, that gave to the west its numerous types of Romanesque architecture and ornament, and subsequently adopted certain specifically Norman forms. In the early Gothic epoch Irish builders followed the Cistercian models common to western Europe, and in other respects made practical acknowledgment of the effect of the connexion with England.

In the twelfth century the change from the Irish to the English and Continental plan began, was accelerated by the English invasion, and in the thirteenth century it was (in most places) practically completed. Here the facts which meet us in Irish architecture are explained by Irish history (p. 138).

There was a special connexion of early Irish Gothic with that of Pembroke-shire, which in its turn had 'adopted its architectural ideas mainly from Somersetshire', and Christ Church, Dublin, is 'an English church in the style of the Transition' (p. 140). That this did not mean that Ireland was to become merely an architectural province of England is, however, clearly shown by the subsequent development of the art in the western isle. While owing much to the English Lancet and Decorated styles, especially to the former, Ireland did not go on to adopt the later Perpendicular forms characteristic of England, but like Scotland pursued an independent course. On the other hand, whereas later Scottish Gothic exhibits marked signs of French influence, Ireland expresses her architectural ideas in a more purely vernacular form, and late Irish Gothic is a style that presents striking indigenous features.

Mr. Champneys is just as careful to bring out the native Irish elements in the successive styles he analyses as he is to break down the old wall of demarcation, which the older Hibernian archaeologists had set up between Irish art and that of the outer world in general. In truth Irish work at all periods is racy and original in a remarkable degree, and the author does full justice to its interesting constructive and decorative features. With regard to the former the professional reader will miss the analytical drawings which are needed to make points of structure and technique clear, while in the case of the latter also, if drawings were not available, some larger scale photographs should have been added of details of aesthetic value. Historically speaking the treatment of the remarkable work known as Irish Romanesque is satisfactory, for the author of course rejects the fantastic dating at one time in vogue and places the work as a whole after 1100, but it might have been more tellingly illustrated. A more serious defect in the book from the architect's point of view is the absence of ground-plans, the omission of which is extraordinary in a work directed to the professional as well as the general reader. But on the whole Mr. Champneys is to be congratulated on a sound and careful piece of work upon a very interesting theme.

G. BALDWIN BROWN.

L'Immunité Franque. Par MAURICE KROELL. (Paris : Rousseau, 1910.)

THIS is an extremely useful work. It is the first monograph that has been published on the subject, and it gives a thorough survey of the evidence. Dr. Kroell has discovered no new documents, but he deserves gratitude for the catalogue which he has compiled of all grants of immunity prior to 840. The catalogue is illustrated by a map showing the geographical distribution of privileged foundations in the first half of the ninth century.

Dr. Kroell begins by discussing the *immunitates* of the later Roman Empire. He points out that these grants concede to the lands of the church certain exemptions already possessed by the imperial demesne, and so far resemble the Frankish *immunitates*. But the characteristic feature of the Frankish grant is the exclusion of royal officers from the privileged estate; and this privilege was never granted, even to the imperial demesne, by any Roman emperor except Valentinian II, whose decree on the subject was quashed by Arcadius and Honorius. The Frankish immunity was at first a means of protecting the judicial rights which churches and other great landowners had usurped in the later days of the Empire. These private jurisdictions were recognized by Clotaire II in 614, although with important reservations. They were, however, persistently invaded by the rapacious counts of the Merovingian period, who found in judicial fines their chief source of wealth; it was to provide an additional security against these invasions that the diploma of immunity was devised. *Immunitas* was frequently granted by the Merovingians as the price of special services and support. Under the Carolingians there was a change of policy; or, to speak more accurately, what had been a suicidal expedient for gaining a temporary advantage was converted into a method of local government. The Caro-